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ABSTRACT

This report presents data on National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification for teachers in Southern Regional Educational Board (SREB) states. North Carolina and Florida lead the nation in total numbers of teachers with NBPTS certification. Two-thirds of all NBPTS certificates were awarded to teachers from SREB states in 1999-2000. Six SREB states were among the top 10 states in numbers of nationally certified teachers produced in 1999-2000. Between 1998-99, North Carolina had one of the largest increases in numbers of certificates awarded, from 726 to 1,139. Most SREB states encourage teachers to attain NBPTS certification by offering them salary bonuses or funding for examination fees. For 2001, legislation was introduced in Arkansas and Texas to increase the annual bonuses for those receiving national certification. A chart lists NBPTS certified teachers in the United States, all SREB states, and each SREB state individually for 2000, providing data on numbers of certificates issued in 1999-2000, total certificates issued as of December 6, 2000, and state incentives for teachers with national certification. (SM)

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- **North Carolina and Florida lead the nation in the total number of teachers with certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.** North Carolina has 2,407 nationally certified teachers, followed by Florida with 1,268. Mississippi's 755 nationally certified teachers put it fifth in the nation.

- **Two-thirds (66 percent) of all National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certificates were awarded to teachers from SREB states in 1999-2000.** Sixty-one percent (up from 57 percent in 1998-99) of the nation's total number of teachers with national certification are in SREB states. About one-third of all teachers in the United States are in the SREB states.

- **Six SREB states are among the top 10 states in the number of nationally certified teachers produced in 1999-2000.** Those states are North Carolina (1,139), Florida (701), Mississippi (397), South Carolina (326), Oklahoma (125) and Alabama (98).

- Between 1998-99 and 1999-2000, North Carolina had one of the largest increases in the number of certificates awarded: from 726 to 1,139.

- South Carolina also significantly increased the number of certificates awarded within one year. From 1998-99 to 1999-2000, the number of certificates awarded went from 24 to 326. South Carolina is well on its way to reaching its goal of having 500 teachers nationally certified by 2002.

- Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Oklahoma also made significant increases in the number of nationally certified teachers between 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

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State policies have made a difference

Most SREB states encourage teachers to attain national board certification by offering them salary bonuses or funding for examination fees.

Actions in 2000 in SREB states include:

- Delaware raised the annual bonus for nationally certified teachers. The bonus, which previously was $1,500 per year, now is 12 percent of the teacher's salary for the life of the certificate.
- Georgia increased the annual salary bonus for nationally certified teachers from 5 percent to 10 percent.
- Kentucky set a goal of having at least one nationally certified teacher in every public school by 2020.
- South Carolina raised its annual bonus to $7,500. The annual bonus previously was the difference between the state average salary and national average salary (about $6,000).
- Virginia joined other states, including Florida and North Carolina, in recognizing the licenses of nationally certified teachers from other states.

For 2001, legislation has been introduced in Arkansas and Texas to increase the annual bonus for those receiving national certification. Governors' proposals in SREB states — including Florida, Tennessee and West Virginia — would provide increased incentives for teachers to seek national board certification.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards sets high standards for what teachers should know and be able to teach students nationwide. Nationally certified teachers are recognized as experts in their fields. During the 1999-2000 school year, the number of certificates issued was more than twice the combined number of certificates issued in all previous years.

Nationally Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certified Teachers, SREB States 2000

	1999-2000 Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued as of Dec. 6, 2000	State Incentives for Teachers With National Certification
United States	4,720	9,524	
SREB states	3,109	5,825	
Alabama	98	143	$5,000 annually for the life of the certificate.
Arkansas	13	24	$2,000 upon certification; $2,000 annually for the life of the certificate — a total of $4,000 the first year. Legislation introduced this session to increase bonuses to $3,000 upon certification and annually.
Delaware	28	66	Annual bonus of 12 percent for the life of the certificate.
Florida	701	1,268	Annual bonus of 10 percent of the prior-year average salary for teachers. Bonus is awarded every year for the life of the certificate.
Georgia	51	112	10 percent of the state portion of salary annually for the life of the certificate (calculated once, upon certification).
Kentucky	38	73	$2,000 annually for the life of the certificate.
Louisiana	28	42	$5,000 annually for the life of the certificate.
Maryland	42	70	State will match the one-time or annual bonuses (up to $2,000) provided by local boards.
Mississippi	397	755	$6,000 annually for the life of the certificate.
North Carolina	1,139	2,407	12 percent of salary (calculated each year) annually for the life of the certificate.
Oklahoma	125	273	$5,000 annually for the life of the certificate ($7,000 when per-student spending reaches 90 percent of the regional average).
South Carolina	326	361	$2,000 upon certification; annual bonus of $7,500.
Tennessee	9	30	No monetary bonus is provided by the state.
Texas	19	36	No monetary bonus is provided by the state; legislation introduced this session would provide annual salary bonus of $7,500.
Virginia	74	142	$5,000 the first year; $2,500 annually for the remainder of the certificate.
West Virginia	21	23	$1,000 annually for the life of the certificate.

Sources: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
SREB state departments of education
Teacher Salaries and State Priorities for Education Quality — A Vital Link. Atlanta: Southern Regional Education Board. 2000.